

MANY FLAWS FOUND IN NEW EIGHT-HOUR LAW

Neither Side Wholly Satisfied With Wilson's Railroad Measure.

The eight-hour day law for railroad employes, which was signed by the President here yesterday, has thrown both sides to the recent strike controversy into confusion, according to word reaching Washington last night.

Nobody seems to know the real meaning of the law in its present form and a strict interpretation of the clause which specifies that eight hours shall constitute a work day for "contract labor" is expected to cause trouble within a short time.

The brotherhood leaders are of the opinion that Congress may have overstepped its constitutional authority in fixing wages. On the other hand administration leaders have been informed by the railway officials they will expect the President to keep his promise of legislation looking to an increase in freight rates.

President Wilson stopped at the Union Station here yesterday morning en route from Shadow Lawn, N. J., to Hodgenville, Ky., long enough to sign the Adamson bill, which establishes an eight-hour day, effective January 1, 1917, for union employees on interstate railroads.

President's private car, the Federal. The only witnesses were Mrs. Wilson, John Bolling, Mrs. Wilson's brother, and Rudolph Forster, executive clerk at the White House. Four pens were used in signing the bill. One each will be presented to the brotherhood chiefs at the White House tomorrow.

At 10:30 o'clock, the President, accompanied by Mrs. Wilson and Senator Newlands, of the Interstate Commerce Committee, continued the journey to Kentucky where tomorrow he will accept on behalf of the government the humble

birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. The President desired Senator Newlands to go along that they might discuss plans for the enactment of the remainder of the legislative program affecting railroads.

that he has placed himself under an obligation to the railroad interests by forcing the eight-hour law on them. Senator Newlands planned to tell him that any additional legislation on the subject could not be taken up at this session. Senator

Newlands pointed out that the short session which begins in December and ends automatically in March will be very much occupied with matters vital to the administration. These include, in addition to appropriations, the immigration bill, corrupt practices, settlement of the C.

The Progressives, among whom Senators LaFollette, Borah, Cummins, Clapp and Norris are prominent, will fight to the end any move to increase freight rates or increase the membership of the

Democrats Pessimistic.
The Democrats are not optimistic over the outlook. When...

President is responsible for the present situation which confronts Congress, and expect him to suggest some way out of the difficulty. An announcement of some

The brotherhood leaders did not express a desire to be present at the signing of the eight-hour bill. They were entirely satisfied to have the President affix his signature on Sunday.

President Wilson directed Secretary Forster to notify the brotherhood leader as soon as the bill was signed. Garretson's comment at the time was:

"I try to be a good loser, and do not like to rub it in on the other fellow who

It was learned that the brotherhood would have been satisfied to reaching the strike order if Congress had passed the eight-hour law without attempting to fix wages. The fact that Congress estab-

Elisha Lee, chairman of the railway managers committee, left Washington yesterday for his headquarters in Philadelphia. He said he had not been able

to determine where the effect of the Adamson law would begin or where it would end. He added that he had been unable to find anybody else who could make "heads or tails" out of the measure.

"The larger issue is whether or not the orderly process of government can be obstructed by the threats of calamities to the general public by a few people."

The advisory committee of the rail-

ways, it was learned, will meet in New York at an early date to determine what data and evidence will be submitted by them to the commission created by the new law to make an investigation and report the effects of the eight-hour day. A test of the law will be matter for dis-

discussion at the same time. The railroad representatives were much interested in the report that President Wilson had been advised to abandon the remainder of his program.

The Adamson bill was not signed at the Union Station in accordance with any pre-arranged plan. The train to which the private car was attached reached Washington at 7:10 o'clock. Secretary Forster was there to meet the party and

Mr. Forster was informed that the President was still sleeping. The secretary waited around awhile, and fearing there would be a serious delay, hurried back to the White House, placed the bill

President Wilson was awake by this time and announced that he would sign the measure as soon as he had breakfasted. Later the President and Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Bolling took a walk

Wilson and Mr. Bolling took a motor ride, stopping for a few moments at the White House. There he met Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Labor, who offered congratulations over the outcome of the railroad controversy.

Yesterday the brotherhood leaders were

The fifteen or so vice chairmen who remained as representatives of the select committee are leaving. W. G. Lee was